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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Room 222
DOCKETS

18 FEB 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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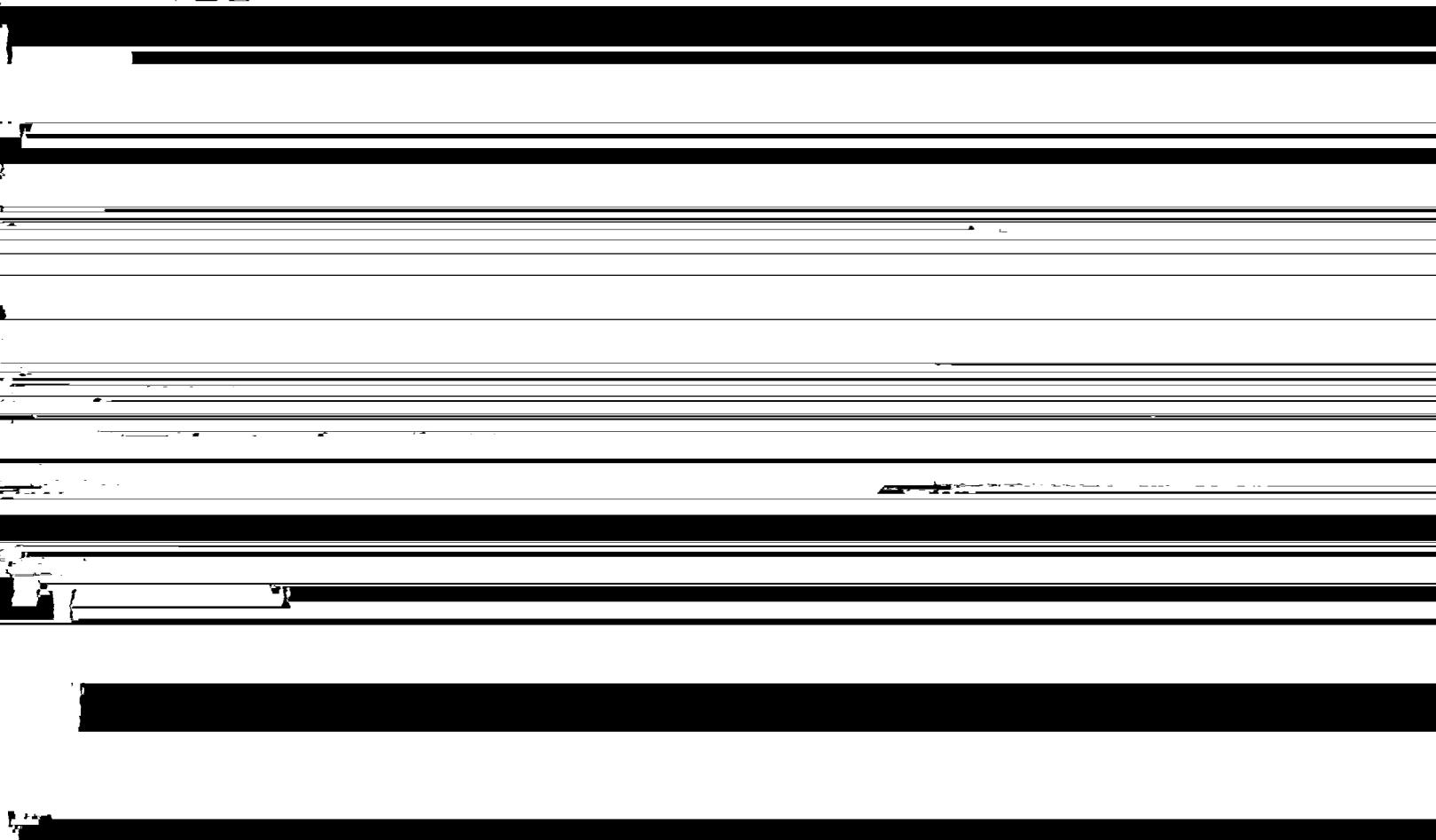
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Howard Coble
House of Representatives
430 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Coble:

This is in reply to your letter of February 5, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituents, Mr. James R. Griffeth and Mr. Randy Little, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice therefore to solicit comment from all interested persons on a



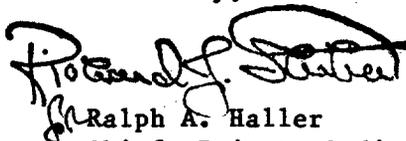
Honorable Howard Coble

2.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:
Notice
Order
Discussion paper

Congressional

DUF OBC: 2-17-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
02/09/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300486	02/09/93	02/05/93	02/22/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congressman	Howard Coble	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
J Griffeth & R Little inq.	comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
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PRB/humid
2-10-93

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02/09/93

REMARKS: Contact person: Roberta Myers, 225-3065.

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F. M. B. BUREAU
PRIVATE RADIO BUREAU
F.C.C.

HOWARD COBLE
SIXTH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

430 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3306
(202) 225-3065

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3306

February 5, 1993

PRB
92-235
486

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LEXINGTON, NC 27293-1813
(704) 246-8230

The Honorable Alfred Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please refer to the enclosed letters from my constituents, Mr. James R. Griffeth and Mr. Randy Little. They are concerned about the FCC PR Docket 92-235 which seeks to change radio frequencies to the detriment of radio-control aircraft enthusiasts. I share their interest in insuring the safety of participants in this sport.

I am not certain whether my constituents have submitted their comments to the docket. Since it appears the FCC deadline is February 26, I would appreciate having their letters referred to the appropriate FCC official for inclusion in the public record. In addition, I would welcome receiving any available background information on these proposed changes for use in responding to them or constituents who may write in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Roberta Myers of my Washington, D.C., staff at 225-3065.

Sincerely,

Howard
HOWARD COBLE
Member of Congress

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PRIVATE FILE

HC:rm

Enclosures (2)

January 22, 1993

Dear Mr. Coble,

I am a professional pilot for Jefferson Pilot Life Insurance of Greensboro, N.C. and also a radio-control (R/C) aircraft enthusiast. I am very active in a local club, The Carolina Flying Aces, whose members enjoy building and operating R/C model aircraft. I personally own several aircraft and radios.

I am very concerned about the proposed rule currently under consideration by the FCC. The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If this new rule is adopted it will greatly reduce the usable frequencies currently assigned for R/C model use. This will increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability.

Our radio-control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is mainly used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio-control frequencies in this band are far enough apart that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

The Notice of Proposed Rule Making in PR Docker 92-235 replaces Part 90 of the rules with a new Part 88. Part 90 allows for safe use of R/C aircraft and surface models by keeping 10 Khz spacing between fixed commercial users and frequencies used by R/C enthusiasts. The new Part 88 will allow mobile users on frequencies within 2.5 Khz of frequencies available to us, thus eliminating safe use of at least 31 of the 50 channels on the 72 MHz band used for R/C aircraft and 10 of the 30 frequencies on the 75 MHz band used for R/C cars and boats. Actually, more channels will likely be affected.

When operating our R/C models, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and spectators and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of radio frequencies. If the FCC is allowed to diminish the number of usable frequencies, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be

James Griffeth
904 Alamance St.
Gibsonville, N.C. 27249



Howard Coble
430 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

JAN 27 1993



Date: January 28, 1993

To: The Honorable J. Howard Coble
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

~~RM~~ / RM

From: Randy Little
261 Holly Lane
Mocksville, N.C. 27028

93 05 1993

Subject: FCC PR Docket 92-235

Dear Mr. Coble,

I am a member and officer of the Winston Salem Radio Control Club, an organization dedicated to building and flying model aircraft. This is a wholesome and enjoyable hobby with which I have been involved for many years. My 8 year old son is learning now, and I am counting on him following this hobby. Many a youngster has taken up modeling in lieu of drugs, alcohol, and other troubles that many young people unfortunately find themselves caught up in. I own thousands of dollars worth of aircraft, radios, building tools, and materials. Our club is planning to spend in excess of \$70,000 this year for a new club field.

I have been advised and am are very concerned about proposed rules that are under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235, which if adopted will seriously reduce the number of usable frequencies available to our use. The new rule would in effect place 5 mobile dispatch frequencies between each of our currently assigned frequencies. Currently, 1 mobile frequency is assigned between each channel, equidistant from the adjacent channels. We have existed with this arrangement with few problems. However, if the extra 4 are inserted, the closeness of the outer two to the Radio Control frequencies, along with the frequency accuracy of the equipment that would be authorized to use them, would result in the much higher powered mobile equipment actually operating on our present frequencies.

Operation of any other equipment on FCC authorized radio control frequencies would force knowledgeable modelers to abandon these frequencies. Modelers who operate by themselves outside of clubs would likely refuse to abandon their equipment or at least change its channel, and many would simply not know of the changes and the impending danger.

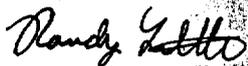
Operations of models would become dangerous under such a situation for both the modelers and spectators. Mobile pagers would inevitably cause the loss of control of models unexpectedly, leading to a crash of the model. Our models weigh as much as 50 pounds, have as much as 10 or 12 feet wingspans, and can fly well

in excess of 100 mph. The danger to life, limb and property is obvious, not to mention the litigation possibilities.

I do not think it is wise for the FCC to seek to improve land mobile radio operations at the expense of the 500,000 model airplane hobbyists in the U.S. We each have considerable investment in time and money in our models, and the R/C industry is itself a billion dollar enterprise, rivaling that of the mobile dispatch industry.

Please do everything you can to stop this unfair and unwise rule change, so that the thousands of serious hobbyists may continue the safe and productive practice of our chosen pastime.

Respectfully yours,



Randy Little

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